



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) A method of wireless LAN (Local Area Network) communication, comprising the steps of:

communicating data between a wireless LAN equipment for each of plural service providers to be connected to an Internet and a user terminal used for users, wherein each said wireless LAN equipment is managed by ~~any~~ a respective one of the plural service providers and is shared by the service providers;

enabling said user terminal to select the wireless LAN equipment with ~~high~~ a higher communication speed than another of the wireless LAN equipment;

exchanging user's information among the service providers, when said user terminal selects said wireless LAN equipment and the selected wireless LAN equipment is managed by the service provider not to be contracted the user of said user terminal;

collecting data of a communication amount and communication time of said user terminal of the each of users, when said user terminal communicates with said wireless LAN equipment using wireless LAN communication; and

calculating data of a charge on usage of said wireless LAN equipment in accordance with said collected data and said exchanged user information, whereby the service provider to be contracted with the user of said user terminal pays said charge to the service provider for managing said wireless LAN equipment.

4-5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) A system for wireless LAN (Local Area Network) communication, comprising:

a wireless LAN equipment for each of plural service providers connected to an Internet, each said wireless LAN equipment being managed by ~~any~~ a respective one of the services ~~provider~~ providers and being shared by the service providers;

a user terminal for said each of users to be communicated with said wireless LAN equipment using wireless LAN communication; and

an information exchange server for exchanging user's information among the service providers, wherein

said user terminal comprises

selecting means for selecting said wireless LAN equipment with ~~high~~ a higher communication speed than another of the wireless LAN equipment, and

said wireless LAN equipment comprises

a service management server for managing user's information of the each of users, and for transmitting said user information to said information exchange server, when said

selecting means selects wireless LAN equipment managed by the service provider not to be contracted with the user of said user terminal,

means for collecting data of a communication amount and communication time of said user terminal of the each of users, when said user terminal communicates with said wireless LAN equipment, and

means for calculating data of a charge on usage of said wireless LAN equipment in accordance with the collected data, whereby the service provider to be contracted with the user of said user terminal pays the charge to the service provider for managing said wireless LAN equipment.

7. (original) The system according to claim 6, wherein said user information is an ID and a password.

8. (original) The system according to claim 6, wherein said user terminal informs a connected service-provider of an MAC address via said service management server of the contracted service provider of said user terminal, and

said wireless LAN equipment of the connected service provider authenticates whether or not to permit connection based on the MAC address.

9. (original) The system according to claim 7, wherein said information exchange server issues a one-time password and one-time ID valid for a given time, when said user terminal connects to said wireless LAN equipment of the non-contracted

service provider, and converts the user's information based on the one-time password and one-time ID.

10. (original) The system according to claim 6, wherein said wireless LAN equipment is a wireless LAN base station.

11. (original) The system according to claim 6, wherein said wireless LAN equipment further comprises:

means for setting a time band for using said wireless LAN equipment for the each of service providers; and

means for refusing connection of said user terminal when a time of usage thereof is out of the set time band for using said wireless LAN equipment.

12. (original) The system according to claim 6, wherein said wireless LAN equipment further comprises:

means for ranking the each of service providers in accordance with charge plans on usage of said wireless LAN equipment; and

means for restricting connection in order from the service providers with a lower rank, in case that an average communication speed per user falls below a predetermined communication speed or in case that a number of connections to said wireless LAN equipment exceeds a preset number of connections of simultaneously connectable users.

13. (original) The system according to claim 6, wherein said wireless LAN equipment further comprises:

means for ranking the each of users in accordance with charge plans on usage of said wireless LAN equipment; and .

means for restricting connection in order from the users with a lower rank, in case that an average communication speed per user falls below a predetermined communication speed or in case that a number of connections to said wireless LAN equipment exceeds a preset number of connections of simultaneously connectable users.